



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/827,346
Applicant : SHIMIZU et al.
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Examiner : Camie S. Thompson

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Customer No. : 22242

Confirmation No.: 2989

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street, South
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

November 2, 2004

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 3, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- (1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- (2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.